

**NHL MORNING SKATE: FACE-OFF EDITION – OCT. 8, 2024**

**NHL Morning Skate** Tuesday, October 8, 2024

- Season's first games in North America featured during ESPN tripleheader
- Utah contests highly-anticipated first game in franchise history
- Campbell set to make landmark coaching debut with Kraken

**ESPN TRIPLEHEADER SHOWCASES SEASON'S FIRST SET OF STATESIDE GAMES TUESDAY**

Each of the first three games in North America during the 2024-25 regular season will be carried by ESPN on Tuesday, with the Blues-Kraken opening the nearly nine-hour telecast followed by the Bruins-Panthers and Blackhawks-Utah Hockey Club. All three contests are also available on ESPN+ in the U.S. as well as on Sportsnet programming and TVA Sports in Canada.

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# OPENING NIGHT



4:30 PM ET



7 PM ET



10 PM ET

## TUESDAY

ESPN ESPN+

\* Utah will contest its highly-anticipated first game in franchise history after claiming the title of newest NHL club from Seattle, which opens the season in momentous fashion with the League's first full-time female assistant coach behind its bench. The historic contests for Utah and the Kraken bookend the reigning Stanley Cup-champion Panthers officially beginning their quest to [repeat](#) and [reach the Final for a third straight season](#).

\* ESPN analyst **Ray Ferraro** is set to [call the game in Seattle before making the 700-mile trip to Salt Lake City](#) and joining **Bob Wischusen** as well as **AJ Mleczko** for the finale. **Steve Levy**, **Mark Messier** and **P.K. Subban** will provide studio coverage from Utah starting with The Point (4 p.m. ET / 2 p.m. MT), which precedes a [free concert outside Delta Center by country music star Shaboozey](#) (7:30 p.m. ET / 5:30 p.m. MT).

\* The morning skates for Utah and Chicago will be livestreamed, with NHL reporters **Kate Pettersen** and **Jason Demers** hosting on the [League's YouTube channel](#) (12:30 p.m. ET / 10:30 a.m. MT). Pettersen and Demers return for "Utah Hockey Club Opening Night Live!" on the channel to share the excitement leading up to the franchise's first game (8:30 p.m. ET / 6:30 p.m. MT). The show will include special guests and live fan interactions outside Delta Center.

\* Many documents from #NHLStats are available on the [Season-Opening Information](#) page, including a [Season Preview](#) as well as notes on [Season Openers](#) and [Approaching Milestones](#).



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# SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

4:30 PM ET



ESPN, ESPN+, SN360, TVAS

7:00 PM ET



ESPN, ESPN+, SN, TVAS

10:00 PM ET



ESPN, ESPN+, SN, TVAS

## UTAH USHERS IN NEW ERA OF HOCKEY FOR SALT LAKE CITY AND "BEEHIVE STATE"

Newly-minted captain **Clayton Keller** will lead the Utah Hockey Club – the 40th franchise in NHL history – into the club’s inaugural regular-season game when they welcome **Connor Bedard** and the Blackhawks to Delta Center. **Utah is considered a new franchise and [will write its own history of records](#)** – the Coyotes franchise was rendered inactive after the transfer of their existing hockey assets was officially completed [June 13](#).

\* Keller was named the [first captain in club history](#) on Friday and has the most career NHL goals (166), assists (252) and points (418) among Utah players. Keller, who recently completed his first campaign with **Logan Cooley** and **Josh Doan** as teammates, will skate alongside other newcomers including **Kailer Yamamoto** as well as Stanley Cup winners **Robert Bortuzzo**, **Ian Cole**, **Mikhail Sergachev** and **Kevin Stenlund**. Cooley and Bedard were [two of four rookies with 20 goals last season](#), while Doan [debuted in late March](#) and averaged nearly one point per game through his first 11 contests.

\* The [Oct. 8 edition of #NHLStats: Live Updates](#) includes notes pertaining to achievements in a franchise’s first game.



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# MOST CUP WINNERS IN A FRANCHISE'S FIRST GAME

NHL'S MODERN ERA (SINCE 1943-44)



TEAM	OPPONENT	DATE	TOTAL
OAKLAND SEALS	FLYERS	OCT. 11, 1967	7
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	SEALS	OCT. 11, 1967	4
ST. LOUIS BLUES	NORTH STARS	OCT. 11, 1967	4
SEATTLE KRACKEN	GOLDEN KNIGHTS	OCT. 12, 2021	3
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS	BLACKHAWKS	OCT. 7, 2000	3
MINNESOTA WILD	MIGHTY DUCKS	OCT. 6, 2000	3
MIGHTY DUCKS OF ANAHEIM	RED WINGS	OCT. 8, 1993	3
FLORIDA PANTHERS	BLACKHAWKS	OCT. 6, 1993	3
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING	BLACKHAWKS	OCT. 7, 1992	3
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS	CANADIENS	OCT. 11, 1967	3



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\*Mikhail Sergachev was one of four Cup winners acquired by Utah during offseason

\* Bedard will begin his second campaign after leading rookies in [goals](#) (22), [assists](#) (39; tied) and [points](#) (61) last season. The reigning [Calder Memorial Trophy](#) winner will play his first game since mentor **Nick Foligno** was named Chicago's captain on [Sept. 18](#) as well as his first in nearly a year with fellow No. 1 NHL Draft pick **Taylor Hall** (last: [Nov. 19, 2023](#)). The Blackhawks also acquired several noteworthy players during the offseason including No. 2 pick **Artyom Levshunov** as well as Cup winners **Laurent Brossoit**, **Pat Maroon**, **Alec Martinez** and **Teuvo Teravainen**.

\* Foligno, Hall, Martinez, **Andreas Athanasiou**, **Tyler Bertuzzi**, **TJ Brodie**, **Jason Dickinson**, **Ryan Donato**, **Seth Jones**, **Connor Murphy** and **Craig Smith** have at least one point against 32 franchises and would be the first players in League history with one versus 33 clubs. Foligno, Hall and Smith can also become the NHL's first players with at least one *goal* against 33 franchises.



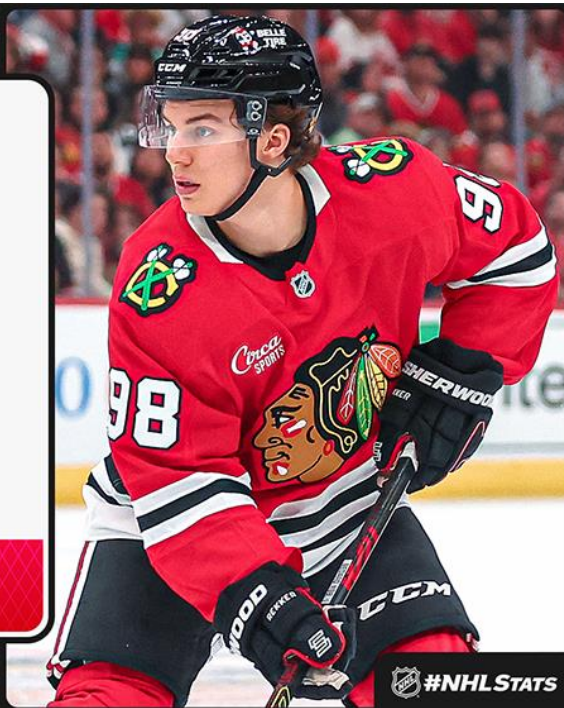
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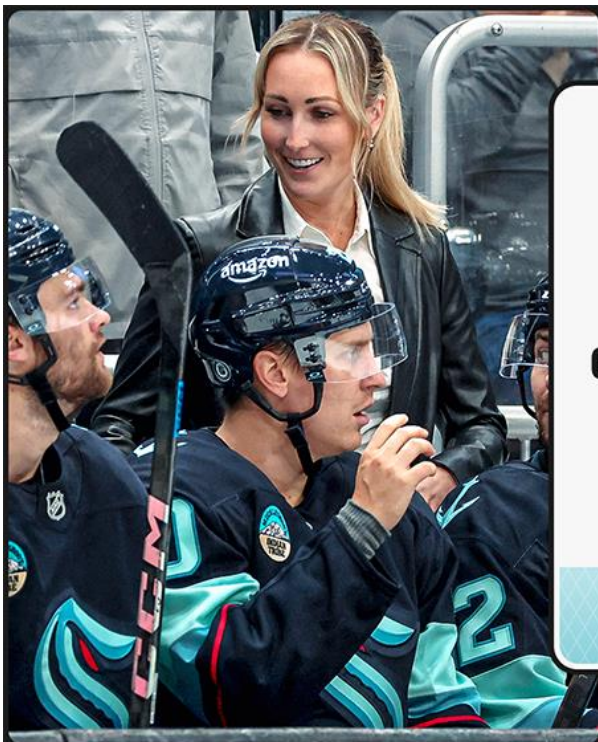
## CHICAGO ATHLETES HAVE SHONE IN UTAH

Connor Bedard and company will become the latest Chicago athletes involved in a historic contest at Delta Center, site of Michael Jordan's "Flu Game" in 1997 and iconic title-clinching basket in 1998.



### CAMPBELL SET TO MAKE NHL HISTORY DURING SEATTLE'S SEASON-OPENING MATINEE

Jessica Campbell will become the [first woman in League history to work a regular-season game as an assistant, associate or head coach](#) when the Kraken battle the Blues during a matinee at Climate Pledge Arena. Campbell was hired as an assistant [July 3](#), after the club named Stanley Cup winner [Dan Bylsma](#) head coach [May 28](#).



**"To carry that torch every day and keep my focus on being a coach, it definitely puts meaning into the work."**

KRAKEN ASSISTANT JESSICA CAMPBELL ON  
BECOMING THE FIRST WOMAN TO COACH IN THE NHL



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\* Campbell is a member of the [NHL Coaches' Association's Female Coaches Program](#), which supports female coaches with skills development, leadership strategies, communication tactics, networking and career advancement opportunities. The NHLCA Female Coaches Program is in its fifth year and has over 100 women (including 34 new members this season), the largest membership in the program's history. Members vary in the level at which they coach, but the majority are in the NCAA or U Sports – the wide breadth of skills, talent and experience of this group, with the support from the NHL and its clubs, will continue to pave a path for more female coaches to break through to the highest levels of hockey.


\* Campbell and Bylsma spent the last two seasons with Coachella Valley of the AHL and the Kraken feature several players from the Firebirds' runs to consecutive Calder Cup Finals. **Matty Beniers** signed a seven-year extension [Aug. 20](#) and is set to skate alongside several newcomers including Cup winners **Josh Mahura**, **Brandon Montour** and **Chandler Stephenson**.

\* **Robert Thomas** and **Jordan Kyrou** start their seventh season with the Blues, whose noteworthy offseason additions include two sets of teammates from other clubs – **Philip Broberg** and **Dylan Holloway** (EDM) along with **Radek Faksa** and **Ryan Suter** (DAL) – as well as brothers **Mathieu** and **Pierre-Olivier Joseph**. Broberg and Holloway played against Montour during the [2024 Final](#), while the Josephs will become the [seventh set of siblings to play a game together with St. Louis](#).

## EARLIEST LOCAL START TIMES IN A SEASON OPENER

NHL HISTORY (GAMES PLAYED IN NORTH AMERICA)

TEAM	OPPONENT	DATE	TIME
LOS ANGELES KINGS	BLACKHAWKS	JAN. 19, 2013	12 PM PT*
BUFFALO SABRES	FLYERS	JAN. 20, 2013	12:30 PM ET
NEW JERSEY DEVILS	PANTHERS	OCT. 7, 1995	1 PM ET*
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS	NORDIQUES	JAN. 21, 1995	1 PM ET*
SEATTLE KRAKEN	BLUES	OCT. 8, 2024	1:30 PM PT*
BOSTON BRUINS	ISLANDERS	OCT. 7, 1995	1:30 PM ET*
BOSTON BRUINS	FLYERS	JAN. 22, 1995	1:30 PM ET



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\*Season opener for both teams

### SUN RISES ON NEW SEASON AS FLORIDA OFFICIALLY COMMENCES CUP REPEAT QUEST

**Aleksander Barkov**, **Matthew Tkachuk** and the Panthers will play their first regular-season contest since the championship-clinching win in [Game 7 of the 2024 Stanley Cup Final](#) when they duel **David Pastrnak**, **Brad Marchand** and the Bruins, who will begin the 100th season in franchise history.

\* The triumphant season for Florida was recently chronicled in the two-hour movie [Stanley Cup Championship Film](#) – now available to stream on ESPN+ and Prime Video Canada. Separately, the six-part docuseries **FACEOFF: Inside the NHL** culminates with [Episode 6, Cup or Bust Part II](#), which

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focuses on Tkachuk and Oilers captain **Connor McDavid**. Unprecedented access shows the moments of elation and sorrow that come with Game 7 of the Final.



\* Barkov, who [received his ring alongside teammates Monday](#) and is one of 14 reigning champions still with the Panthers, became the first Finnish-born player in NHL history to captain a Cup winner and will represent his country later this season at the [4 Nations Face-Off](#) in February (but will first return to his hometown of Tampere for the *2024 NHL Global Series Finland presented by Fastenal* from Nov. 1-2).

\* Pastrnak can reach the 110-point mark for a third straight season and has the [League's second-most goals since the start of the 2022-23 campaign](#). He was featured in [Episode 1](#) of **FACEOFF: Inside the NHL, Best of Rivals**, while [Episode 3](#) titled *Learning to Win* spotlighted **Jeremy Swayman** who signed an eight-year extension on [Oct. 6](#).

### **REST OF THE WEEK FEATURES MORE NATIONAL GAMES, NHL COAST TO COAST DEBUT**

Other national broadcasts to look forward to during the opening week in North America:

#### **Wednesday, Oct. 9 – Three games across Sportsnet and TVA Sports**

\* Three all-Canadian matchups are featured: **Auston Matthews** contests his first game wearing the “C” for the Maple Leafs as he pursues the [franchise goals record](#); **Connor McDavid** starts his 10th season needing just 18 points to hit [1,000 in his career](#); and **Quinn Hughes** is back in action after helping the Canucks reach [Game 7 of the 2024 Second Round](#).

#### **Wednesday, Oct. 9 – Doubleheader on TNT**

\* The season's first NHL on TNT telecast features **Artemi Panarin** pitted against **Sidney Crosby** who commences his 20th season needing four points to become the [10th player in League history with 1,600 in his career](#), followed by **Nathan MacKinnon** jousting **Jack Eichel** in a mutual opener between the [2022](#) and [2023 Stanley Cup champions](#).



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## Thursday, Oct. 10 – NHL Coast to Coast premieres on Prime Video

\* Prime Video's [weekly whip-around studio show](#) premieres for Prime Members in Canada and will feature live look-ins, highlights as well as expert analysis of all nine games, which could include **Macklin Celebrini** making his highly-anticipated League debut.

## Saturday, Oct. 12 – Bedard, Crosby, Matthews, McDavid highlight Hockey Night in Canada

\* Thanksgiving weekend in Canada will include a star-studded season premiere of Hockey Night in Canada: **Sidney Crosby** and Matthews collide in Toronto; **Connor Bedard** and McDavid [will meet](#) for the second time; **Brady Tkachuk** and **Nick Suzuki** will captain their clubs in an Atlantic Division showdown; and **Travis Konecny** will lead the Flyers into Calgary to face **Nazem Kadri** and the Flames on what will be an emotional home opener honoring **Matthew** and **Johnny Gaudreau**.



**CONNOR VS. CONNOR  
ON HOCKEY NIGHT**

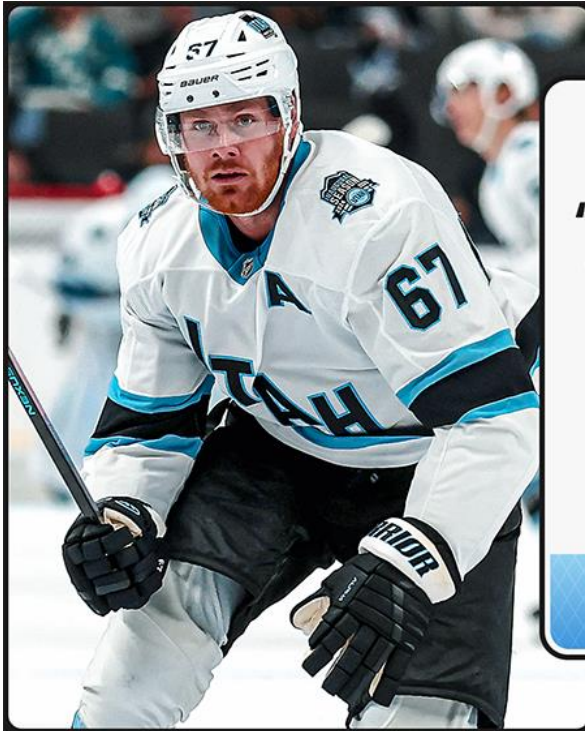
Connor Bedard had 61 points in his rookie season, while Connor McDavid had 48 during his first campaign before recording 100 the following year en route to winning the Art Ross and Hart Memorial Trophy.

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## QUICK CLICKS

- \* [#NHLStats: Live Updates – Oct. 8, 2024](#)
- \* ['Faceoff: Inside the NHL' is a binge-worthy series for everyone](#)
- \* [NHL Network set to air new-look schedule](#)
- \* [Utah Hockey Club preps night to remember for inaugural game celebration](#)
- \* [Utah players, fans 'fired up' for Hockey Club's inaugural game](#)



“““

**“My neighbors are all fired up, everyone you talk to. I think word travels pretty quick that hockey players are in town, and everyone’s so excited, so it’s cool to be a part of that, the buzz.”**

UTAH FORWARD LAWSON CROUSE AHEAD OF THE FIRST GAME IN FRANCHISE HISTORY



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